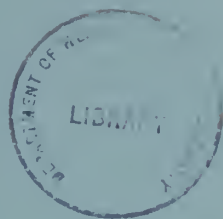


The Health of The Rural District

1971

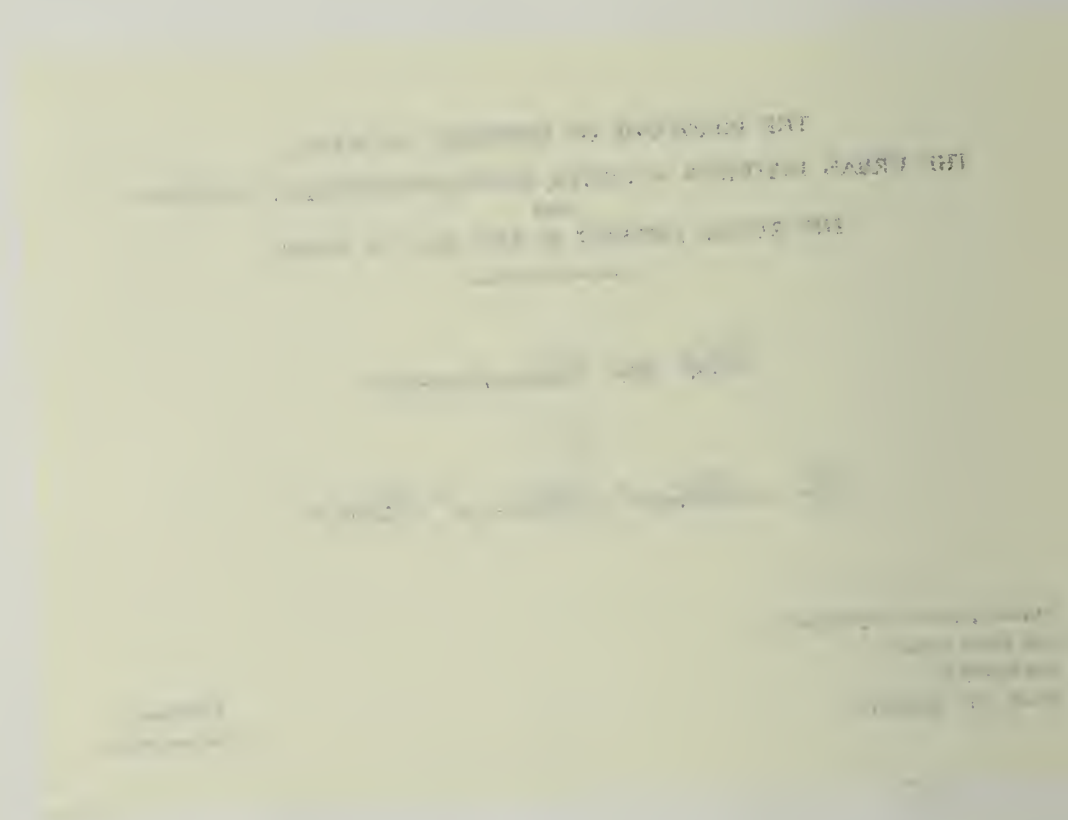


THE BOROUGHES OF NEWPORT AND RYDE,
THE URBAN DISTRICTS OF COWES, SANDOWN-SHANKLIN, VENTNOR
AND
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

*With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
149 HIGH STREET,
NEWPORT,
ISLE OF WIGHT.

*Telephone:
Newport 4031.*



ISLE OF WIGHT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the report of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971



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ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1971 - 1972

Chairman - Mr W G Lawes, C.A.

Vice Chairman - Mr J Preston

Councillors

Mrs J M Ainsworth

H Lewis Esq

H J Angell Esq

E W Mew Esq

Cdr. H G Craig

F E Musson Esq

J A De chering Esq

Major F C Pettifer

E G Feben Esq

W H Quick Esq

Group Captain J M Fitch

D T H Redfern Esq

B E Gledhill Esq

F S Saunders Esq

F F Hollis Esq C.A.

R J Westmore Esq

W H Howard Esq

H J Wood Esq

H H Lanfear Esq

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council

Mr Chairman and Councillors

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1971.

There was very little change in the birth rate (14.8), which was again below the rate for England and Wales (16.0). Of the two hundred and fifty live births in the district twenty three were illegitimate giving a rate (9.2%) which was above the national figure (8.0%).

Only three infant deaths were recorded and once again the infant mortality rate (12.0) was below the figure for England and Wales (17.6). The comparative death rate was only 10.1 and was the lowest rate for the district since 1957.

The main causes of death were again coronary thrombosis, stroke and cancer. There was only one death from tuberculosis and there were no maternal deaths.

Infectious diseases did not present any significant problem during the year. Only eight cases of measles were reported but this was not surprising in view of the large number infected in the previous year and the fact that more have been immunised against this disease by their doctors. German measles is not notifiable although it is a serious condition for the unborn child, if a mother contracts it in early pregnancy. Immunisation is available against this disease also, but the demand for it on the Island has been disappointing and it has been suggested that this procedure should be carried out in schools, as is done with much success in many other parts of the country.

Although the consumption of unpasteurised milk is no longer a serious health hazard as regards tuberculosis, there is still a risk of contracting such diseases as brucellosis, a disease which is not only harmful to man but also to animals such as dairy cows. Eradication is by slaughter of infected animals and I am glad to report that the Island is one of the first areas to benefit from such a scheme. This will be specially welcomed by the medical profession and also by the dairy farmers providing, of course, they are fairly compensated. However, even if the Island is one of the first areas to become free from brucellosis, unpasteurised milk will continue to be a danger as there are other diseases spread by infected milk which are also serious.

A threat to close down the accident department at St Mary's Hospital caused considerable concern particularly in West Wight. This threat resulted in so much agitation by Parish and District Councillors of that area that the Regional Board decided to keep the department open on a part-time basis and the District Council urged that a full-time service should be provided 'as a matter of urgent necessity! The problem arose through shortage of staff, but as long as doctors

are inadequately paid for this highly responsible work, problems in casualty departments here and elsewhere in the county will continue.

During the Summer a certain amount of time was devoted to preparations for another pop festival which was being planned, but although the Isle of Wight County Council Act had not become law, it was successfully used to prevent the holding of such a festival, and now that Mr Woodnutt, MP, has steered the Bill through Parliament it can be assumed that no further mammoth festivals will ever be held on the Isle of Wight. Our experience in this field has, however, enabled us to provide helpful advice to authorities on the mainland where no special legislation applies. Mr Nichols and I had the honour of being invited to address the Royal Society of Health on the subject at the Annual Congress, and our views have also been requested by the Department of Health and Social Security. Mr Nichols is now chief inspector for the entire district and Mr C Walker joined the department as full-time Public Health Inspector. This arrangement has ensured a wider coverage of public health work and more effort has been concentrated on ensuring clean food.

In general, progress was made in all fields of hygiene and sanitation in the district as will be apparent from this report. The officials have appreciated the encouragement and support they have had from the council and the good working relationship between members and officers, which has always been characteristic of this council, has continued.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Douglas Quantick'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'Q'.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

D W QUANTRILL, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R J NICHOLS, F.I.P.H.E., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.
(Formerly PHI East Wight. Re-appointed as Chief Inspector, August 1971).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C V SMITH, M.R.S.H. (Mr Smith relinquished position as PHI West Wight
on 31.7.71.)

C WALKER, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks:

MRS R COOPER
MISS D LANGLEY

It should be noted that although the Department is a combined Surveyor and Public Health Department, only the work of the public health section is referred to in this report.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's figures)	22,110
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable dwellings end of 1971	10,092
Rateable Value, as at 1 April 1971	£ 820,218
Sum represented by 1 n.p. rate (1970/1971)	£ 3,268

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	m. f.	I.W. Rural District	England & Wales
No. of live legitimate births	122 105	227	
No. of live illegitimate births	11 12	23	
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)		11.3	16.0
Comparative factor		1.31	
Comparative Birthrate		14.8	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		9.2	8.0

STILLBIRTHS

	m.	f.	<u>I.W. Rural District</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
No. of legitimate stillbirths	1	2	3	
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	-	-	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			11.9	12.0
Total Live and Stillbirths	134	119	253	

DEATHS

Total no. of deaths	162	168	330	
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)			14.9	11.6
Comparative Factor			0.68	
Comparative Death Rate			10.1	

Infant Deaths

Legitimate infants under 1 year	2	-	2
Illegitimate infants under 1 year	-	1	1
Legitimate infants under 4 weeks	1	-	1
Illegitimate infants under 4 weeks	-	-	-
Legitimate infants under 1 week	1	-	1
Illegitimate infants under 1 week	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant deaths under 1 year per 1,000 total live births	12.0	18.0
Legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	8.8	17.0
Illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	43.5	24.0
Under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	4.0	12.0
Under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	4.0	10.0
Perinatal mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	15.8	22.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

No. of deaths	0	
Rate	-	0.18

CAUSES OF DEATH

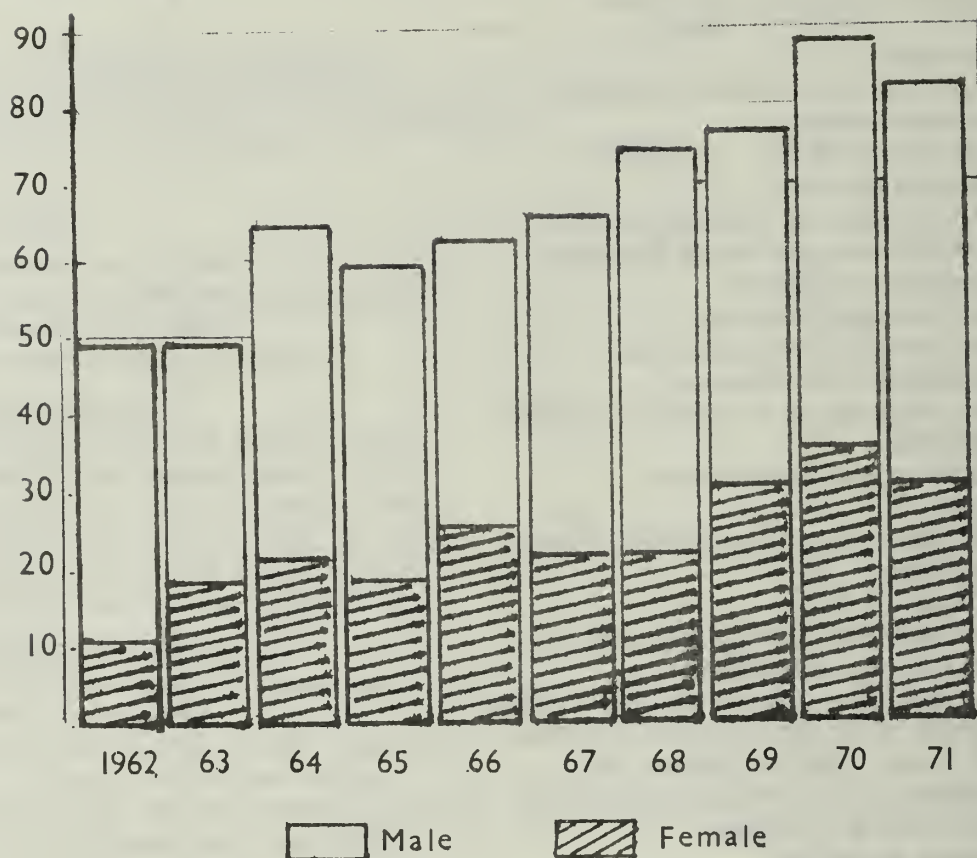
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
" " lung, bronchus, larynx & oesophagus	15	2
" " breast	-	7
" " intestine	2	3
" " uterus	-	4

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	6	-
" " other	5	13
Leukaemia	1	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	2
Diabetes mellitus	-	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1
Hypertensive disease	7	1
Ischaemic heart disease	52	30
Other forms of heart disease	17	21
Cerebrovascular disease	13	40
Other diseases of circulatory system	9	12
Pneumonia	5	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	1
Asthma	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	1	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1
All other external causes	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes	162	168
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths from Diseases of the Coronary Arteries

I.W, Rural District

1962-1971



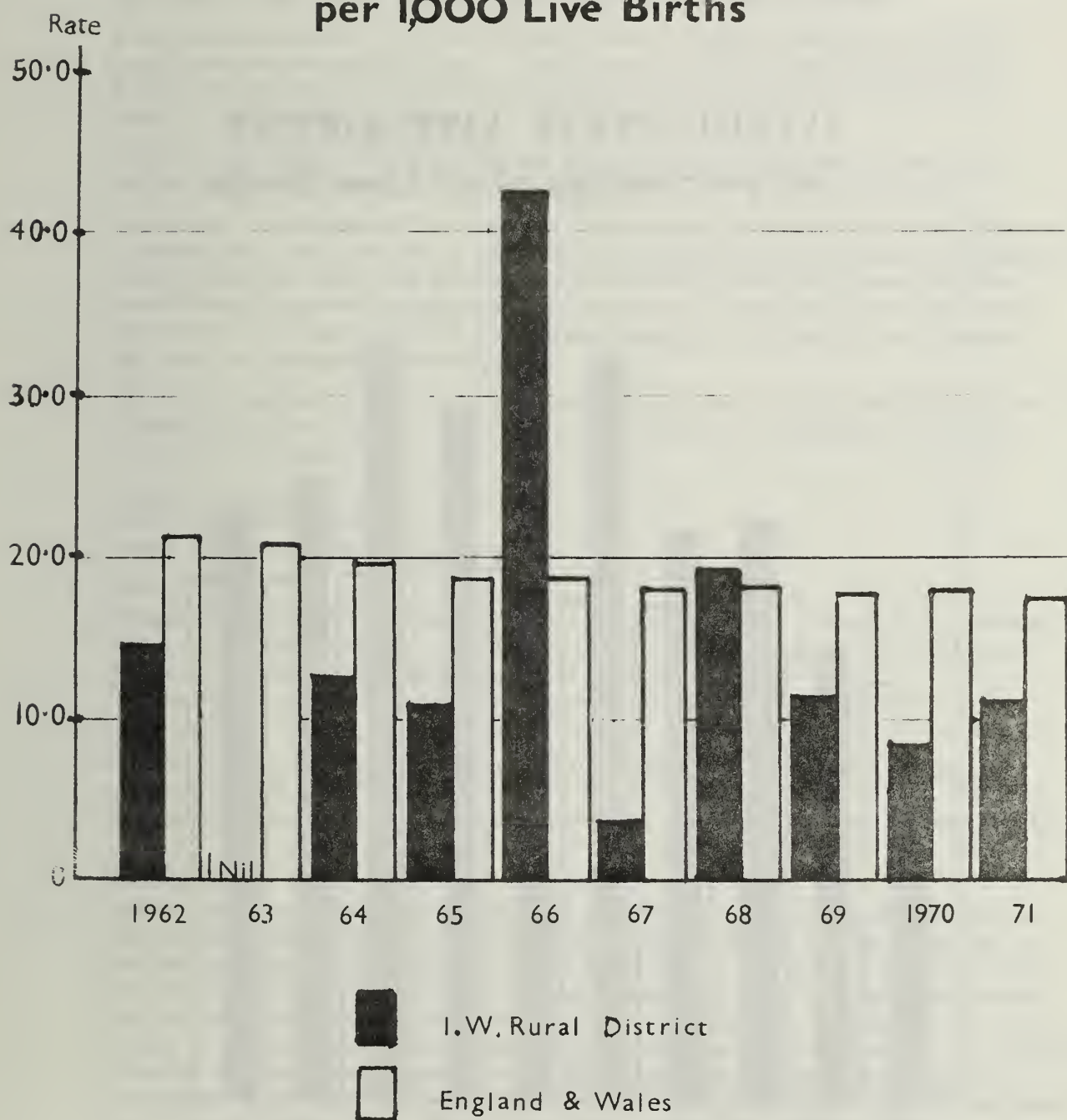
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING 1971

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Infective Jaundice	TB Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 2 years	-	3	1	-	-	-
2 " " 3 years	-	1	5	-	-	-
3 " " 4 years	-	1	-	-	-	-
4 " " 5 years	1	2	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10 years	3	1	5	-	-	-
10 " " 15 years	-	-	2	1	-	-
15 " " 25 years	-	-	-	2	-	-
25 " " 35 years	-	-	-	-	-	1
35 " " 75 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years and over	-	-	-	-	2	1
TOTAL	4	8	13	3	2	2

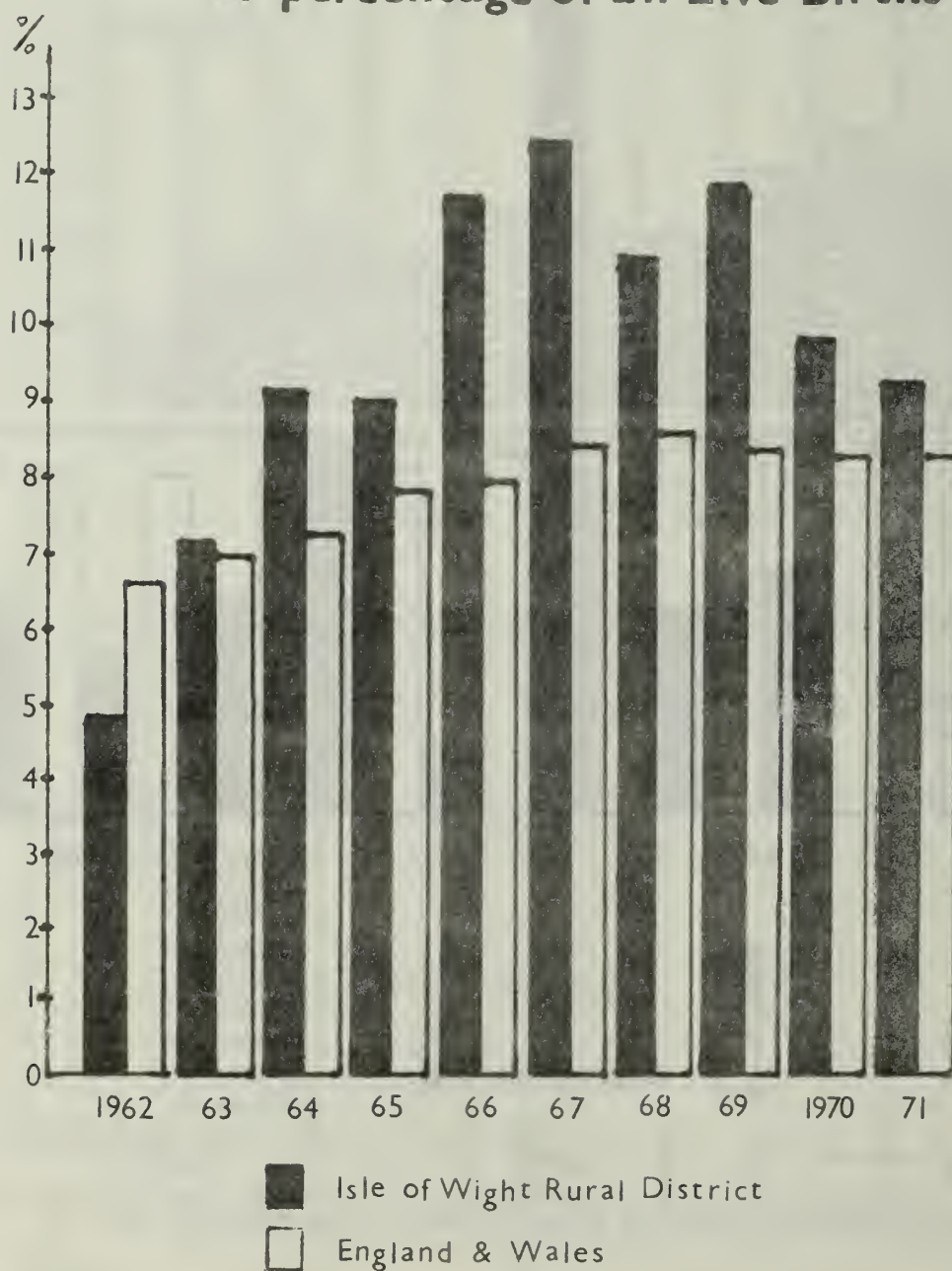
No Notifications of Food Poisoning were received during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year
per 1,000 Live Births



ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS as percentage of all Live Births



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES:

During the year 50 samples of mains water were taken by this department and the Isle of Wight Water Board. Only 3 (6%) proved unsatisfactory.

A sample taken from a well at Whitwell proved highly contaminated and the supply was consequently closed. Fortunately, a mains supply was available. It is proposed that samples will be taken from other wells to ascertain the general extent of the problem.

Another sample taken from a private supply near Wroxall also proved to be polluted and work is in hand to connect the premises to a mains supply.

Generally, the substantial majority of premises in the district are provided with a satisfactory mains supply of water with the exception of a number of dwellings near Mottistone which are served by a supply with a very low pressure, and several small sparsely populated outlying areas. The I. W. Water Board has approved a scheme to provide an adequate supply to the Mottistone premises, and work will commence shortly.

The Water Authority have various extension schemes awaiting Ministry approval. A scheme for providing a supply to outlying parts of the village of Arreton is partially completed.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences are provided at:-

West Wight:

Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (3), Totland, Totland Bay, Colwell Bay, Bridge Road, Yarmouth, Yarmouth Common, Compton Bay (chemical disposal type), and at Alum Bay by arrangement with The Needles Hotel.

Provision of a public convenience is being considered for Brighstone.

East Wight:

Bembridge (3), Brading, Niton, Godshell, and at The Buddle Inn, Niton, by arrangement of the proprietors.

Arrangement for provision of another block of toilets at Brading is being finalised.

HOUSING

The influx of new residents in the rural district has not only continued but has noticeably increased during the year despite the dramatic rise in house prices and the shortage of building land within the district. A record number of plans were deposited and reported upon by the Council - 882; a considerable number but understandable when one considers the excess demand for housing over the supply of accommodation available. It must be remembered also that a considerable minority of these plans were for housing estates and not just for individual development. If the trend continues, it seems probable that the number of plans dealt with will pass the 1,000 per year mark within the next two years.

Number of new houses erected by the Council during the year	13
" " private houses erected	255
" " unfit houses closed	2
" " families rehoused through closing orders	1

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Council policy of making Improvement Grants was continued and during the year 66 properties were improved under this scheme (60 Discretionary grants and 6 standard grants). A terrace of 6 pre-war Council houses at Freshwater was also improved during the year at a cost of £15,000, and showed exactly what could be achieved with the aid of Improvement Grants.

ASSISTED HOUSE PURCHASE AND LOANS

During 1971 loans were made in respect of 30 properties for the purchase, construction, repair or alteration.

The total amount paid was £82,045.

CARAVAN SITES

Number of licensed caravan sites - 16.

In addition, there are several tented camping sites available but the room provided for touring caravans is very limited. The standard of the sites is generally satisfactory.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Number of licensed premises - 6.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Council's service for refuse collection continues to operate successfully and a weekly collection was maintained. Bulk refuse is collected at irregular intervals according to demand, but presented no problems.

Refuse disposal was by means of controlled tipping at the central Bleakdown tip and also at the smaller tips at Brading and Afton Down, the latter tip being phased out at the end of the year.

Collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles threatens to be an increasing problem in the district and is aggravated by the lack of suitable disposal facilities.

<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
Bembridge and Brading (35 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	4,631
Arreton, Newchurch, part Godshill, part Brading (20 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	9,239
Niton, Chale, Gatcombe, part Godshill (20 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	8,408

<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
Agricultural parishes, West Wight (20 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	12,627
Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth - (35 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	4,325
(25 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	4,230
(20 cub.yd. Pakamatic)	6,335

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council operates its own service with one 1,400 gallon vehicle. Rising costs on maintenance etc. led to the expected increase in charges later in the year.

Total number of cesspools or septic tanks emptied or cleared:
 East Wight - 779
 West Wight - 394
 plus 130 for other authorities

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed by the Council and made a total of 1 987 visits during the year. The testing and treatment of public sewers and the spraying of refuse tips was also carried out.

Insect control plays an increasing role yearly and this year proved no exception, being particularly concerned with wasps nests and large numbers of flies. One very difficult problem encountered concerns an unpleasant type of swarming fly called Cluster Flies. These assemble in very large numbers on south or west facing walls which have been painted white. They are particularly difficult to treat as they can fly over 15 miles in a day from their breeding ground which is thus impossible to trace. Luckily they are not considered disease spreaders but do cause a considerable degree of annoyance to people whose properties are so affected.

UNPLEASANT ODOURS

Again, complaints have been received concerning the application of chicken manure to agricultural land and, although the nauseating odours are restricted to only a few weeks during the late summer, the nuisance is no less severe to those people affected. Legal control is very limited and we can only rely on informal action and the co-operation of the farmers involved to minimise the nuisance.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 and 1968

No smoke control areas have been represented to the Council but air pollution is not considered a problem in the district. Routine observations have been made of industrial emissions but no nuisances have been noted. Only a few complaints were received concerning alleged smoke offences, all of which concerned garden bonfires.

Action to deal with this type of complaint is very limited and only informal advice was necessary. Perhaps the only cause for concern relates to the practice of burning stubble in the field; this causes dense clouds of black smoke to be evolved, producing not only air pollution but a danger to drivers on the Island's winding roads.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Each year the number of noise complaints rises but seldom is action available under the existing legislation. However, it is understood that a new Noise Abatement Act is likely to be placed on the statute books in the near future. 27 visits were made following noise complaints and informal action taken as necessary.

SWIMMING POOLS

Being both a holiday resort and an Island, there are a large number of swimming pools provided in the district in private establishments, schools, and even in the grounds of larger houses. 24 visits were made to test swimming pool water for purity and to advise regarding proper treatment and usage of the pools. The lack of proper treatment plant in some pools still gives rise for concern.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Apse Heath, Alverstone, Winford and Newchurch:

A scheme of main drainage in the above areas was started during the year and it is anticipated that it will be completed by September 1972. The scheme costing in the region of £275,000, entails four pumping stations and discharges the sewage into Sandown/Shanklin UDC sewerage disposal system.

Future schemes:

The Council's consultants have been instructed to prepare schemes for the following -

- | | | |
|---|----------------|----------|
| 1. New sewage treatment works for the village of Shorwell. | Estimated cost | £40,000 |
| 2. New sewers to serve Newbridge and Shalfleet villages. | " " | £200,000 |
| 3. Reconstruction of sewage treatment works for the villages of Niton and Whitwell | " " | £170,000 |
| 4. New sewers and treatment works for the village of Chale | " " | £220,000 |
| 5. New sewerage scheme to serve the West Wight area, comprising the villages of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth | " " | £600,000 |
| 6. Extension of sewers and reconstruction of sewage disposal works at Godshill. Extension to bring in the village of Sandford | " " | £150,000 |
| 7. Sewage treatment works for the village of Brighstone | " " | £ 30,000 |

8. Provision of storm water relief sewer at Bembridge . Estimated cost £ 20, 000
9. Sewage treatment works for the village of Calbourne " " £ 10, 000

The above schemes are being phased, extending from 1972-1977, subject to Ministry approvals.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>Total Registered</u>	<u>Number Employed</u>	<u>Number of premises visited during 1971</u>
Offices	48	189	16
Retail shops	121	420	65
Catering establishments	45	321	38
Fuel storage depots	1	4	1
TOTALS	215	934	120

A total of 250 inspections were made during the year and only minor contraventions were found. It is disturbing to note that the number of registerable premises has dropped and the number of persons employed has dropped even more, indicating the general depressed state of employment on the island. It is hoped that this is only a temporary recession.

All premises (other than factories) in which persons are employed for a sum total of over 21 hours per week have to be registered with the Local Authority under the Act. It is also the responsibility of occupiers of such premises to notify the Authority of any accidents occurring on the premises and causing an absence from work of more than three days.

During the year no such accidents were notified. However, it seems unlikely that no accidents occurred and leads to the conclusion that employers are ignorant of the legal requirements despite visits by Officers over the last 8 years.

FOOD HYGIENE AND STANDARDS

The control of food and food premises is mainly governed by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955; the Food Hygiene (markets, stalls and delivery vehicles) Regulations, 1966; and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, which came into force this year.

The overall standards in food premises are satisfactory but there remains a small percentage of premises which fall below the minimum standards required. Premises within the district to which the law applies and the number of visits made are contained in the following table:

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. visited</u>	<u>Total No. of visits</u>
Butchers, fishmongers	18	18	40
Other food shops	96	80	199
Fish friers	2	2	8
Restaurants, cafes	61	60	105

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. visited</u>	<u>Total No. of visits</u>
Public houses	50	38	80
Hotels, guest houses	125	25	38
Social Clubs etc.	37	4	4
Holiday camps and sites	21	14	22
Canteens (factory, office)	8	3	3
Bakehouses, food preparing premises	6	6	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	424	250	507
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 inspections were made of mobile stalls and delivery vehicles, all of which proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream Control and milk

The law requires that all premises, other than catering establishments, dealing in ice-cream, shall register with the Local Authority. This year, the task of up-dating the existing register was undertaken and it was found that of the original 161 premises, only 84 were still trading in ice-cream. There are possibly a few premises, however, which are not registered, but it is hoped that the register will be completed during 1972.

The general standard in registered premises is satisfactory.

Six inspections of dairies within the district were carried out and efforts are continuing to persuade dairy operators to pasteurise milk before sale. It is encouraging to note that the sales of untreated milk have decreased drastically.

The eradication of brucellosis on the Island is proceeding rapidly and of a large number of milk samples taken this year only a few have revealed the presence of brucellosis.

Adulteration and fitness of food

Approximately 200 lb of frozen food was surrendered and condemned during the year following refrigerator breakdowns in retail shops. In the majority of cases this large wastage could have been avoided by regular maintenance and proper operation of the equipment.

Six complaints of unsound food were received and investigated during the year, as follows:

1. Mould on sausages
2. Mould on Cornish pasty
3. Tainted sausages
4. Oil in loaf
5. Mould on crisps
6. Beetle larvae in bottle of pasteurised milk.

The first three were all due to the shopkeeper's lack of knowledge of the use of manufacturers' coding systems (date stamping).

Routine inspections have revealed that a large number of traders are ignorant of such coding and the situation is aggravated by the fact that most coding systems are unique to each manufacturer. In fact, even when a code has been deciphered it is not always apparent whether it is the date of manufacture or the date by which the food should have been sold. Unless codes are legally or voluntarily standardised it is probable that such complaints will continue.

Discussion were still in progress at the end of the year regarding the insects in the bottle of milk but the other complaints were all successfully resolved without recourse to legal action.

Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year and the source was not traced.

Possible sources of food poisoning do exist within the district, notably from polluted water courses containing wild watercress, and wells used as private water supplies. The risk however, is diminishing annually as more suspect sources are being closed or improved.

POP FESTIVAL

Although there had been much talk of the probability of another Pop Festival on the lines of the previous year's event, nothing, in fact, transpired. It is evident, however, from the interest and correspondence received that our experience has been used as a model by other Councils whose officers have been faced with similar problems. A good number of copies of Mr Nichols' paper given to the Royal Society of Health Conference at Eastbourne in April, 1971, have been sent to interested people.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections under Part I of the Act for purposes of provisions as to health were as follows:

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	-	-
Factories, not included above, in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	85	36	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excl. outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	88	37	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on more than one occasion, they are reckoned as separate cases).

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	2	2
Sanitary conveniences (insufficient or defective) Sec. 7	1	1

Outwork (Part VIII of the Act)

<u>Nature of work</u>	<u>No. of outworkers</u>
Wearing apparel	4
Cosmetic bags	1
	—
	5
	—

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

There are 62 installations in the district licensed for the storage of petroleum. They are divided as follows:

<u>Pre-mises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number inspected</u>
Filling Stations	32	32
Private	30	30

Total number of inspections - 97.

Efforts have been continued to bring all the installations up to the required standards of safety and only 20 premises still required improvement by the end of the year.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Houses inspected	102
Houses re-inspected	37
Water supplies	23
Drains and sewers	30
Meat and other food inspections	16
Food premises	507
Offices, shops and railway premises	250
Factories	37
Petroleum regulations	97
Miscellaneous	100
	<hr/>
TOTAL	1199
	<hr/>

